

DEO GRATIAS.

Our Broad and Fruitful Home for
Untold Millions.

PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE GREATNESS.

A Contrast with the Nations
of Old Europe.

THE CELEBRATION TO-DAY.

How the American Festival of
Thanks Will Be Observed.

It is difficult to give in words any more complete impression of the material strength of this nation than is conveyed by the graphical presentation of the areas of our States and Territories as compared to those of the most civilized and densely populated countries of Europe, if we consider the proportion of these areas to the area occupied by the principal crops on which our material welfare mainly depends.

Upon one-fourteenth part of our whole soil or upon one-seventh part of that which is fit for agriculture we produce the hay and roots that we require, and all the grains and cotton that we need ourselves, with so much more that even if we did not produce an ounce of gold or silver within our borders we could command the treasures of the world. Yet if we consider the average product per acre in respect to every one of these crops we find that it does not exceed one-half the quantity that even a reasonably good system of agriculture would bring forth. If we consider the conditions under which each and all of these great crops of grain, hay and cotton are produced we find that they represent in the lesser degree only, the art of agriculture.

THE GREAT WHEAT REGIONS.
Not many years since the Genesee Valley and the central parts of the State of New York were mainly devoted to the production of wheat; from that point its cultivation gradually moved westward and northward, and now Minnesota and Kansas take the lead in this great crop. But this change does not mark the decay, rather the progress of agriculture in the regions from which the culture of wheat has mainly passed. In the great Mississippi Valley wheat has found its natural home upon the Loess formation, the boundaries of which are not yet known. The soil of this same formation has been cropped with wheat for centuries in China without exhaustion. The value of this soil is presented in Mr. Abram S. Hewitt's speech, in which the resources of this country are so ably presented. The eastern boundary of this formation is somewhere in Ohio, the western extends to the great plains west of the Mississippi.

The farms of Central New York are better cultivated and more productive than when they were devoted to wheat. Even in the more sterile State of Massachusetts the data of the last national census (which were quite inadequate in respect to the products of agriculture of that State) disclosed the fact that Worcester county stood only third among the county divisions of the whole country in the value of the products of agriculture. The first was Lancaster county, Pa.; the second the great dairy county of St. Lawrence, N. Y.; the fourth was Hartford county, Conn.; not until the fifth did we reach the corn country, La Salle county, Ill.; sixth, the wheat country, Oakland county, Mich., and next we come back to Burlington county, in New Jersey.

HIGHER AGRICULTURE.
In 1870 the value of the products of agriculture of the five counties of Lancaster, Pa.; St. Lawrence, N. Y.; Worcester, Mass.; Hartford, Conn., and Burlington, N. Y., all situated in the far East, was \$38,804,240. Yet the area of improved land on which this value was produced was only 3,038 square miles, an area that would be graphically represented on the scale of the chart by this square:—

The value of the farms of these five Eastern counties represented by this square was, in 1870, \$182,786,611. The value of all the improved lands in the great corn State of Illinois was only five times as great; the value of all the farms in the great wheat State of Minnesota a little more than one-half as much, and in the great cotton State of Mississippi less than one-half.

In this country corn and wheat are but the pioneers of agriculture, and the cultivation of cotton is almost semi-barbarous, even under its present improved conditions of free labor—less than half a bale to an acre is the average, and that is the product of land under the rudest methods and most untutored conditions of cultivation or of the poorest kind. One bale of cotton an acre is the minimum of good cultivation.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.
The dairy products of the nation cannot readily be graphically presented by a line representing a specific area of land, but the value of the butter and cheese is nearly, if not quite, as great as that of the cotton crop; and, if the value of the milk consumed as food be added, the total value of the dairy product is more than that of the cotton crop and as much as or more than that of the wheat crop.

TOBACCO, SUGAR, RICE.
Tobacco, sugar and rice occupy so small a space that the scale of the chart will hardly suffice to picture them.

WOOL.
The production of wool cannot be graphically defined. Its final home may be upon the cotton field where sheep feed upon the cake that is left after the oil has been taken from the kernel of the seed will fertilize the soil, double the crop of cotton and add the wool clip to the profit of the crop.

THE HOME OF ONE HUNDRED MILLIONS.
We number now nearly or quite 50,000,000 people; 100,000,000 could be sustained without increasing the area of a single farm or adding one to their number by merely bringing our product up to the average standard of reasonably good agriculture, and then there might remain for export twice the quantity we now send abroad to feed the hungry in foreign lands. No longer divided by the curse of slavery this nation is now united by bonds of mutual interest and of common speech, tied by the iron band of 80,000 miles of railway, and is yet only beginning

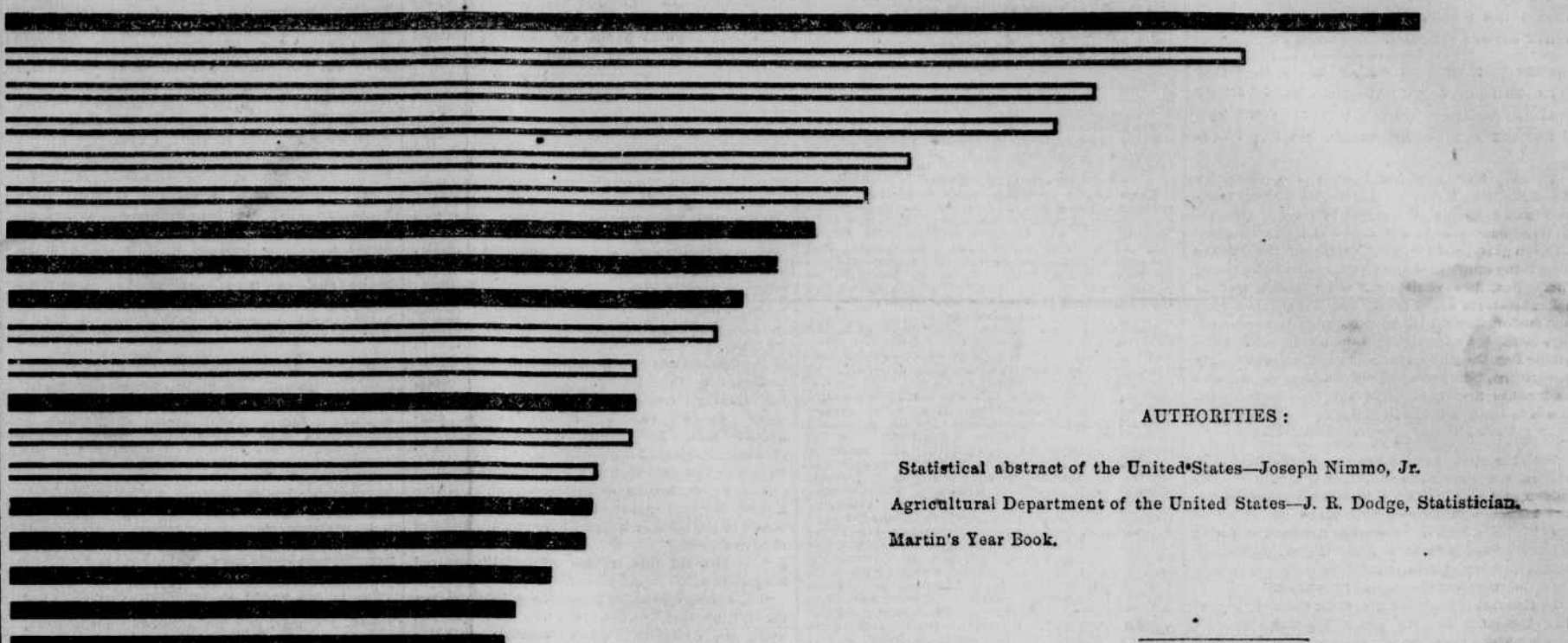
WHAT WE HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

Graphical Presentation of the Comparative Areas of the States and Territories of the United States and the Countries of Europe, Omitting Russia and Alaska.

Name. Square Miles.

1. Texas.....	274,356
2. Austrian Empire.....	240,943
3. German Empire.....	212,091
4. France.....	204,091
5. Spain.....	177,781
6. Sweden.....	168,042
7. California.....	157,801
8. Territory of Dakota.....	150,932
9. Territory of Montana.....	143,776
10. Turkey, including Bulgaria, &c.....	138,264
11. Norway.....	122,280
12. New Mexico.....	121,201
13. Great Britain and Ireland.....	120,879
14. Italy.....	114,296
15. Arizona.....	113,916
16. Nevada.....	112,090
17. Colorado.....	104,500
18. Territory of Wyoming.....	97,883
19. Oregon.....	95,274
20. Territory of Idaho.....	86,294
21. Territory of Utah.....	84,476
22. Minnesota.....	83,631
23. Kansas.....	80,691
24. Nebraska.....	75,965
25. Territory of Washington.....	69,994
26. Indian Territory.....	68,991
27. Missouri.....	65,350
28. Florida.....	59,268
29. England and Wales.....	58,320
30. Georgia.....	58,000
31. Michigan.....	56,451
32. Illinois.....	55,414
33. Iowa.....	55,045
34. Wisconsin.....	53,924
35. Arkansas.....	52,198
36. Alabama.....	50,722
37. North Carolina.....	50,704
38. Mississippi.....	47,156
39. New York.....	47,000
40. Pennsylvania.....	46,000
41. Tennessee.....	45,600
42. Louisiana.....	41,356
43. Ohio.....	39,964
44. Virginia.....	38,348
45. Kentucky.....	37,680
46. Portugal.....	36,510
47. Maine.....	35,000
48. South Carolina.....	34,000
49. Indiana.....	33,809
50. Ireland.....	31,874
51. Scotland.....	30,685
52. West Virginia.....	23,000
53. Netherlands.....	20,527
54. Greece.....	19,941
55. Switzerland.....	15,233
56. Denmark.....	14,553
57. Belgium.....	11,373
58. Maryland.....	11,124
59. Vermont.....	10,212
60. New Hampshire.....	9,280
61. New Jersey.....	8,320
62. Massachusetts.....	7,800
63. Connecticut.....	4,750
64. Delaware.....	2,120
65. Montenegro.....	1,770
66. Rhode Island.....	1,306

Relative Area (United States solid, Europe open).



AUTHORITIES:

Statistical abstract of the United States—Joseph Nimmo, Jr.

Agricultural Department of the United States—J. R. Dodge, Statistician.

Martin's Year Book.

Square Miles. Relative Area.

Texas produced in 1878 between 800,000 and 900,000 bales of

cotton on 1,808,306 acres, or..... 2,825

The consumption of cotton in the United States in 1878 was

1,568,960 bales; if raised in Texas, at present average per acre..... 4,800

The crop of cotton of the United States in 1878-79 was 5,073,531

bales; if raised in Texas, at one bale to an acre..... 8,000

The world uses in all 11,000,000 to 12,000,000 bales of cotton of

American weight; if all were raised in Texas, at one bale to

an acre, less than..... 19,000

Square Miles.

Area of the United States, omitting Alaska..... 3,034,399

Area of arable land, estimated..... 1,500,000

(A large portion of the remainder is suitable for grazing.)

Area of farms now occupied and in part improved..... 700,000

Area of improved land in the above farms, estimated..... 400,000

Area occupied by nine crops named below..... 221,769

Area of Texas..... 274,356

Deduct the desert land of Texas, say..... 50,000—224,356

AREA OCCUPIED BY THE PRINCIPAL CROPS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE YEAR 1878.

Crop.	Acres.	Product per Acre.	Quantities.	Square Miles.	Relative Area.
Corn.....	51,585,000	26.91 bushels	1,388,218,750 bushels	80,001	
Wheat.....	32,108,560	13.09 bushels	420,122,400 bushels	50,170	
Hay.....	26,931,300	1.47 tons	39,608,296 tons	42,080	
Oats.....	13,176,500	31.39 bushels	413,578,560 bushels	20,500	
Cotton.....	12,266,800	.413 bales	5,073,531 bales	19,166	
Barley.....	1,790,400	23.60 bushels	42,245,630 bushels	2,800	
Potatoes.....	1,776,800	70 bushels	124,126,650 bushels	2,776	
Rye.....	1,622,700	16 bushels	25,842,720 bushels	2,535	
Buckwheat.....	673,100	18.20 bushels	12,246,820 bushels	1,051	
				Total square miles..... 221,769	

THE POPULATION PROBLEM IN ENGLAND.

An American gentleman, well known in the world of political economy, a thinker and a statistician, writes something bearing on this matter which will be found highly significant:—

When in England about two years since I found all thinking men greatly disturbed by the pressure of population and by the land question. One gentleman with whom I passed a couple of days—a very large manufacturer—stated the problem in substantially these words:—

"We double our population in England once in fifty years; we now buy one-half our food; we depend upon our supremacy in manufacturing for our power to purchase; you in America, and others, have touched our supremacy; you have not yet trenched upon it to any great extent, but you have begun; if we cannot sell we cannot buy; what then shall we do with our increase if we cannot even sustain our present population?"

My natural reply was, "Send the increase to the United States."

"But," said my host, "your land is all disposed of."

I stared at him and asked on what authority he made that statement.

His reply was:—"On Major Powell's official report, of which I have a copy."

HOW AMERICA CAN SOLVE IT.

I then explained to him that Major Powell merely stated that the government had parted with its title—that the land was disposed of but not yet used, and I then added:—"You are a fair example of the utter ignorance of the majority of your countrymen as to the capacity of the United States, and the reason is that all school maps are made to fit a uniform

sheet of paper and are not drawn on the same scale. I will now endeavor to convince you that we can yet receive a few more immigrants from England and not be embarrassed by them. If you will send the men to do the work we can place them upon the little patch of the State of Texas by which Texas exceeds the present area of the German Empire (62,000 square miles). We will locate this lot, as we say in America, on the line of the Texas Pacific Railroad, south of the Red River and bordered by it. Within eighty or a hundred miles on each side of that line, before we come to the grazing country, we will find good land enough to produce the entire cotton crop of the United States, say five million bales, and the entire wheat crop of the United States (then about three hundred and fifty million bushels), and we will have land enough left inside our limit of 62,000 square miles to sustain the people who make these two crops. If this is not sufficient, as the winter wheat grows too fast in that section, we will pasture two or three million head of cattle upon it, to keep the wheat below the first joint until after frosts have closed, and then send them to market."

My friend said he had before considered me a modest Yankee, but his confidence was shaken. He seemed, however, to find some satisfaction in the further statement which I added, "That the real relief to England from any immediate fear of our competition in cotton fabrics or other goods or wools might be delayed, because the home demand upon our mills, works and money would soon become so active as to give us all we could do to supply it."

The computation on which the statement in respect to Texas was based was an estimate that the fertile land of the section named would yield one

bale of cotton or twenty bushels of wheat to an acre, under good cultivation, at which ratio 5,000,000 bales of cotton would take a little less in square miles than..... 8,000

350,000,000 bushels wheat a little over..... 27,000

For the two crops..... 35,000

Margins for over-estimate in my statement..... 27,000

Excess of Texas over Germany in all (square miles)..... 62,000

Perhaps some other States might compete with Texas, but this seemed the best example to meet the case.

OUR HERITAGE OF FREEDOM.
While we thus see on what substantial grounds we may look forward to a future of brilliant and unexampled prosperity and peace we may well remember that the riches of a nation consist neither in abundance of money nor in abundance of land, but, in the words spoken a century since by one of the great merchants of Philadelphia, Joeliah Webster, whose works are too little known, they do consist in "good laws, good public officers, in virtuous citizens, in strength and concord, in wisdom, in justice, in wise counsels and in many force."

May we not well recall on this day of Thanksgiving the warning words of one now living, who himself has done as much as any other man to keep this nation true—

For what avail the plough or sail,
Or land or life, if freedom fail?
In the providence of God there are no degrees of crime. The crime of slavery we have repented and we have paid the debt of wrong by life and treasure.